I can not stand by a let those who are not inside the software "industry" as I am blather on about how Microsoft did not take any steps to suppress and/or eliminate competition.

OK, I'm a software techo-geek. I've been writing, using, and debugging software for 42 years. Most of those years were spent writing compilers, compiler building tools, and related utility programs like debuggers, linkers, and assemblers. In one of my previous jobs, we wanted to port a C compiler to the Windows environment. It compiled code that ran twice as fast as that compiled by the latest and greatest Microsoft offering. Our problem was that we had to take heroic measures to test our compiled code. Why? Microsoft will not and will not release the specifications of the object code that their system supports - the format that their linker accepts and their libraries contain.

Other compiler teams have faced the same problem. Some with deeper pockets than ours reverse engineered the Microsoft object code formats. That worked fine until Microsoft "improved" the formats, requiring another round of reverse engineering. Eventually, most gave up - just as Microsoft intended.

Who loses? Everyone who wants to create efficient programs to run in the Windows environment. First hand, that's not many of you, but second hand, as users of the programs that are available, that's most of you out there.

Oh sure, there's the example of Borland, who bit the bullet and created their own complete closed system with its own unique set of file formats and libraries. One counter example with very deep pockets. All of the others eventually have given up chasing a sequence of "new and improved" Microsoft secret file formats. I'm sure that there are those in other niches of the software world who can tell similar stories about the Microsoft predator. Let's hear them!

Then there's Windows, or is that Windoze? It is the most bug ridden, unstable, sophomoric, "designed" by trial and error, half-baked piece of crap that masquerades as "operating system" that I've seen in my 42 years in the industry. I could go on and tell you what I really think!

Windoze usually hangs trying to shut itself down. Often, a crashing program destroys system information. One that I see a lot is that the ESCAPE key's meaning is altered. Guess what the "solution" is. Yep, yet another reboot. This on a machine that has hardware to protect the data of one program from all other programs! The "system" doesn't even protect its own vital data! It stores vital resource use information in fixed size 65,536 byte buffers. Program crashes often trash even them. Normal use overfills them.

As far as I'm concerned, UNIX is "the" operating system. OS/2 was great
(after its initial teething problems) until Microsoft cut IBM off from the
details of Windows 95 that they needed to be able to run the new generation
of Microsoft tools - like Word and Excel. Denial of information necessary to
competitors. Does that sound familiar?

I say, break up Microsoft, and make the various parts tell the others and all
aspiring competitors the details of the file formats and API's. How many
pieces? At least three: Windows, Applications, and Development Tools.

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The American Republic will endure, until politicians realize they can
bribe the people with their own money. -- Alexis de Tocqueville

"To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves
and abhors is sinful and tyrannical." ---Thomas Jefferson

"Those who advocate more and more government regulation have been experimenting
for 40 years, trying to create an economic system in which everyone can somehow
be made more prosperous by the toil of someone else." --Ronald Reagan

Ask not for what your country can force other people to do for you.

"Tax cuts do not have to justified. It's government spending that has to be justified."
-- Sheldon Richman, Washington Times

Aren't you glad you're not getting all the government you're paying for?

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If
it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving,
subsidize it. -- Ronald Reagan (1986)

Gun control is not about guns; it's about control.

The philosophy of gun control: Teenagers are roaring through town at 90 MPH,
where the speed limit is 25. Your solution is to lower the speed limit to 20.
--SAM COHEN

Different Perspective On Militias
"We don't want to overthrow the government of the United States -- because
that has already happened. We simply want it back."

"Those who beat their swords into plowshares usually end up plowing for those who kept their swords."
--Ben Franklin

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety
deserve neither liberty nor safety."
-- Right-wing extremist Benjamin Franklin

"If stupidity got us into this mess, why can't it get us out??" --Will Rogers

"If a Nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it
expects what never was and never will be ... If we are to guard against
ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be
informed." Thomas Jefferson

"The big problem in the long process of dumbing down the schools is that you can
reach a point of no return. How are parents who never received a decent
education themselves to recognize that their children are not getting a decent
education?" -- Thomas Sowell

"Reason obeys itself; and ignorance does whatever is dictated to it." --Thomas Paine

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed -- and
thus clamorous to be led to safety -- by menacing it with an endless series
of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." -- H.L. Mencken

"A lie is not, strictly speaking, the opposite of the truth; a lie will usually
contain an element of truth. Perverted words are situated in a twisted vision
that distorts the landscape; one is confronted with a myopic social and
political philosophy." -- The Black Book of Communism (p. 19)

Who will protect the public when the police violate the law? -- Ramsey Clark

The Constitution wasn't perfect, but it was better than what we have now.